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ABSTRACT

The book is the outgrowth of two studies: a cross-sectional analysis comparing the experiences and tested achievement of high school seniors over the decade 1972 to 1982, and a longitudinal analysis relating cognitive growth (particularly in mathematical skills) of 1980 high school sophomores to their schooling experiences over the period 1980 to 1982. The book is divided into four parts. Part 1 consists of one chapter, "Education and American Youth: The Impact of the High School Experience--An Introduction." Part 2, "The American High School and Its Students: How Did They Change between 1972 and 1982?" includes the following four chapters: (1) "Changes in the Characteristics of High School Seniors and Their Families between 1972 and 1982"; (2) "How Did the American High School Change between 1972 and 1982?"; (3) "Changes in Students' School Experiences"; and (4) "Educational Outcomes or Why Did Test Scores Decline between 1972 and 1982?" Part 3, "Achievement and Persistence in High School: A Closer Look," includes the following two chapters: (1) "What Determines Achievement Growth in High School?"; and (2) "Who Stays in School? Who Drops Out?" Part 4, "Policy Implications," includes the chapter "Policy Recommendations for the Next Decade." Data are presented on 68 tables; 76 notes and references are included. An index is appended. (BJV)

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